

The Donations of Jay-Z

Editorial by Ean Goddard

There are places in the world where people are less fortunate than us. Most of us here in the United States have running water. We have water in our homes, in stores, in businesses, at parks and the list goes on and on and we tend to waste lots of water every day.

In some parts of Africa for example, people have to walk a very long distance just to get some water that may not even be clean at all.

In class one day, we saw a 2006 DVD story about how Jay-Z, a popular American rap artist, saw that there were people who were way less fortunate than us. He decided to appeal to the United Nations to do something about it.

Jay-Z went to Africa, one particular place of several locations was Angola and he asked its people how they lived. He saw that young kids had to wake up real early before school and walk miles to go get some water and bring it home to drink. Jay-Z could not believe what these young kids had to do every single day.

So Jay-Z decided to walk with them and feel what they had to deal with everyday. To his disbelief, he found out that it was a lot harder than he expected. Jay-Z went to their school and the school was very small. There were two to three kids per desk because of a lack of space. Also, the roof was somewhat collapsed in so when it rains they would get wet and rained on.

Jay-Z said, “As I started looking around and looking at ways I can become helpful, it started with water..... something as simple as water”. He also turned his attention to Americans. “Young people need to know the problem exists.”

He said he feels empathy for these people, so he donated money for new toilets and a system where kids sort of ride on a wheel and it would pump water for them in their own community so they did not have to walk miles to get it. Those kids were so grateful for what Jay-Z did for them. Something that can be so simple to us can be totally amazing for someone else. We need more people like Jay Z who, think about others instead of just thinking about themselves.



We need to find it in our hearts to donate money to people who are less fortunate than us so they can get the right education and technology to have the resources that they need.

There are three things I learned:

- 1. We also need to conserve water because there are people who do not have near as much as we have. What if we ran out? Think about it. Then, we could have problems – very serious problems.*
- 2. We want to help the environment, not destroy it, because if the environment goes, we, the whole of human race, will go as well.*
- 3. Access to clean water should be a right, and not a privilege.*

(Continued)

For more information on what we learned in class visit the following Web sites that highlight the Jay Z's "Water for Life" DVD:

- <http://unworks.blogspot.com/2007/09/hes-got-99-problems-and-water-crisis-is.html>
- http://www.unicef.org/wash/index_36634.html

Video Link:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=441715101567823623&ei=jZWFSouoMoeOrAKQp73vBA&hl=en>

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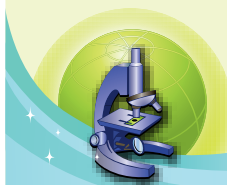
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